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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/684,668	10/14/2003	Steve Mitchell	KLYCD-05008US1	3396

7590 12/12/2005

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EXAMINER

SNOW, BRUCE EDWARD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/684,668	MITCHELL, STEVE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Bruce E. Snow	3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 26-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9-16, 18-19, 21, 23, 26-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 41-43 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/28/05 has been considered.

Regarding the rejection in view of Yarrow (4,499,613), it is the Examiner's position that the device is capable of being implanted.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 4-12, 14, 21-23, 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ferree (2004/0106998), applicant's has submitted a declaration to overcome the rejection. The declaration filed on 9/28/05 did not indicate that it was submitted under 37 CFR 1.131 and is improper and ineffective to overcome the Ferree reference. Additionally, applicant's exhibits are completely illegible; see attached exhibits 1-4. Further, applicant failed to describe what claim limitations are shown in the exhibits. Therefore, the evidence submitted is insufficient to establish a reduction to practice of the invention in this country or a NAFTA or WTO member country prior to the effective date of the Ferree reference. For an actual reduction to practice, the invention must have been sufficiently tested to demonstrate that it will work for its intended purpose, but it need not be in a commercially satisfactory stage of development; the exhibits do not prove the device was built and tested.

Regarding the rejection of claim 23 under 112, second paragraph, the socket of the lower plate is parallel to the sagittal as shown in figure 1G not parallel. The Examiner notes that the socket is interpreted as the "channel 160". Does claim 23 directly conflict with claim 43? (All claim language must be supported in the specification.)

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wagner et al (6,706,070), applicant is trying to distinguish the claims using functional which differs in each of the seven independent claims. It is the Examiner's position that the device of Wagner after being implanted and the patient heals, is fully capable of being readjusted by the surgeon in a second procedure. Referring to claims 35 and 36, "continuous selective movement" can easily be interpreted as the selected adjustment movement of the surgeon which is done continuously. The Examiner notes that claims 35 and 36 are very broad; it is noted that a universal ball joint has an infinite number of axes which the upper plate member can rotate and infinite number of axes which the lower plate member can rotate; clearly two axes can be selected which are not parallel.

Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Keller 2004/0153157 – universal spinal joint.

Beaurain et al 2004/0243240 – universal spinal joint.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 41-43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 23, the claimed configuration is ambiguous. The socket of the lower plate is parallel to the sagittal as shown in figure 1G not parallel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-6, 9-14, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yarrow (4,499,613).

Yarrow teaches an implant comprising a first piece 24 having a first socket , a second piece including 16 having a second socket 66, 68 and a crossbar member 44 that is at least partially received in the first socket and the second socket.

See first bar 46 and second bar 62.

Claim 19, a foot in the art is sometimes referred to as a keel.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9-12, 14, 21, 23, 35-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ferree (2004/0106998).

Note that the provisional application No. 60/416,181 was filed on October 4, 2002 and supports figures 1-6 only. Ferree teaches an implant comprising a first piece 104 having a first socket a second piece 104' having a second socket and a crossbar member 102 that is at least partially received in the first socket and the second socket.

The crossbar member includes first and second bars configured perpendicular forming a "T" or "+" shape.

Regarding claim 5, the socket or interior surfaces comprise many different slopes.

Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18-19, 21, 23 and 26-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wagner et al (6,706,070).

Applicant must consider all configurations taught by Wager, a couple configurations are specifically discussed. Referring to figures 8-9, Wagner et al teaches an implant comprising a first piece 12 having a first socket 60, a second piece 14 having a second socket 60 and a crossbar member 30 that is at least partially received in the first socket and the second socket.

Regarding claim 2 having first and second bars that are perpendicular, see figure 6B showing element 30 having generally "I" shape having upper and lower bars separated by a middle bar. **Also see figures 42-49 wherein the spacer (crossbar) includes at least elements 740, 760 and the cam block. All other elements are self-evident. See the embodiments shown in figure 38 wherein the bars abut.**

Claims 3 and 26, inherently the "I" shape has a bar above the middle bar. Also, referring to figure 9, another interpretation the first bar 30 is mounted higher or above second bar 32.

Regarding claim 12, see at least figure 42.

Regarding at least claims 15-20 claiming a keel, see at least elements 516, 616, 716, 816, 916, 1016.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferree (2004/0106998) in view of Marnay (WO 01/01893).

Ferree teaches the implant as described above, however, fails to teach a keel. Marnay teaches the keel configuration as claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the to have used the keel/s of Marnay on the implant of Ferree to better anchor it to the vertebrae.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not


mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce E Snow whose telephone number is (571) 272-4759. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bes



BRUCE SNOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Exhibit 1

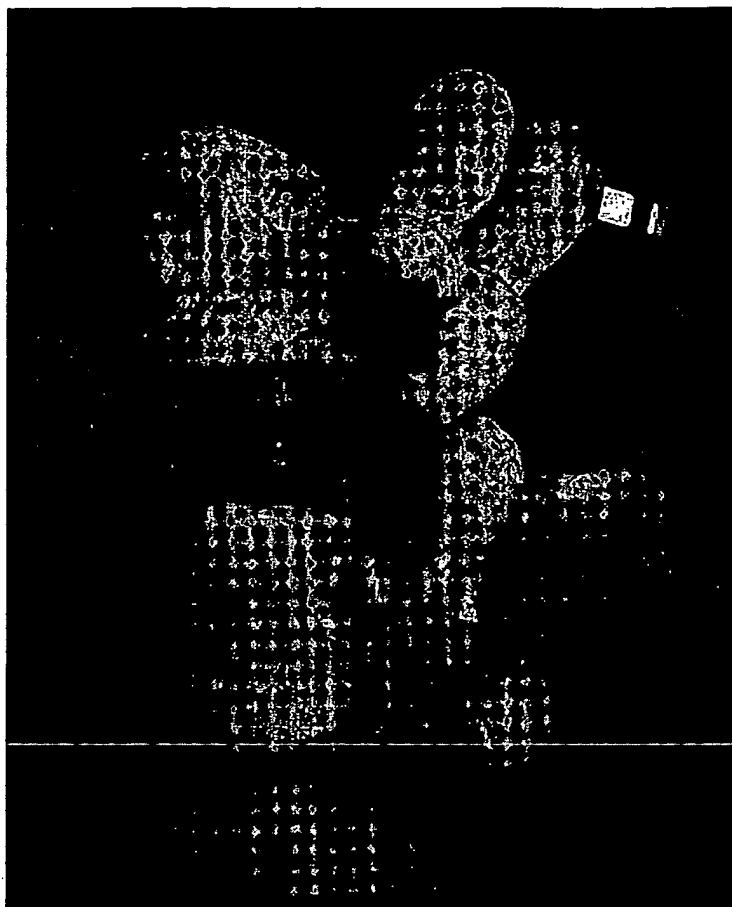


EXHIBIT A

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Exhibit 2

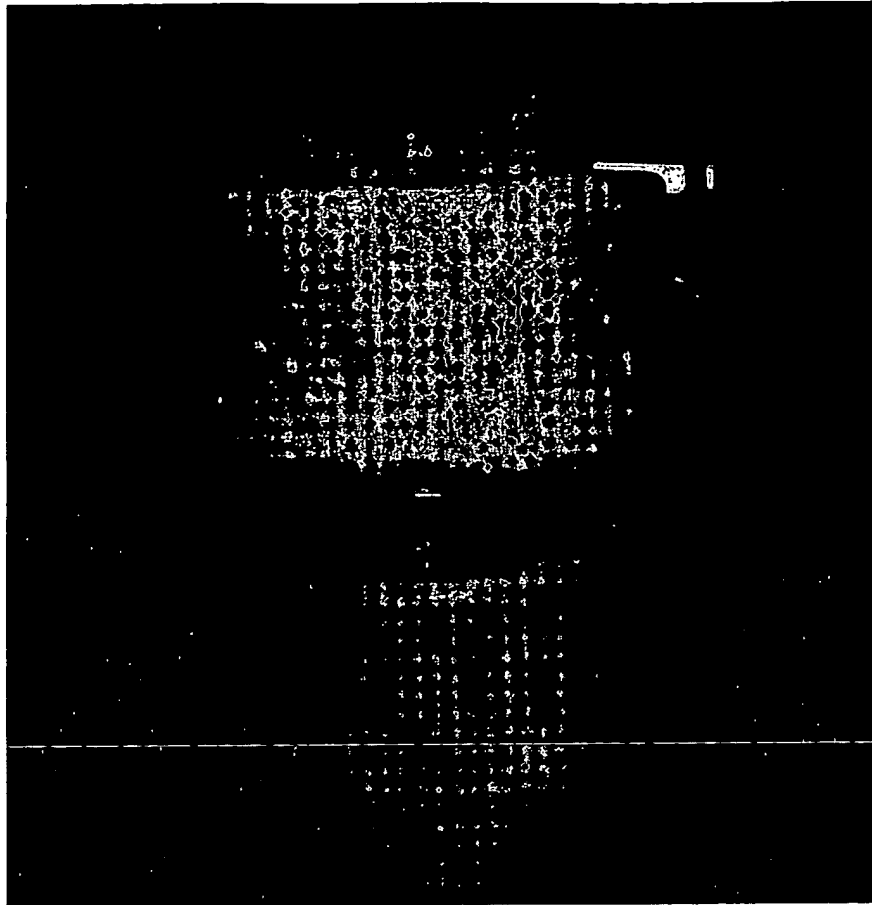


EXHIBIT B

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Exhibit 3

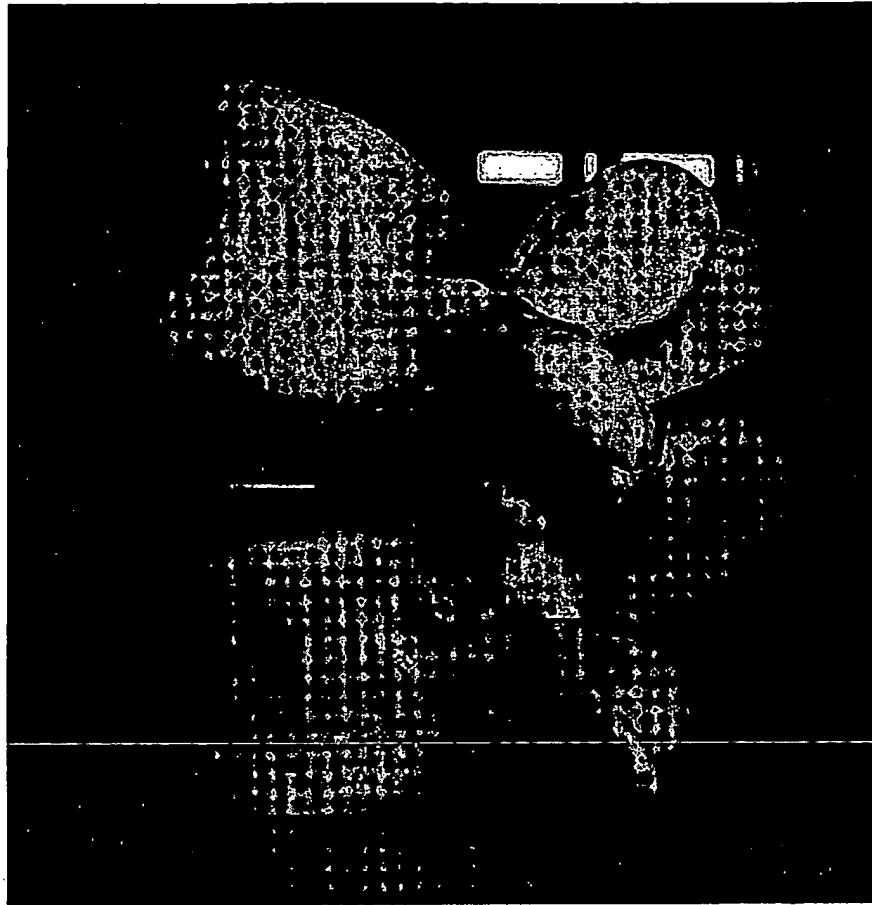


EXHIBIT C

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Exhibit 4

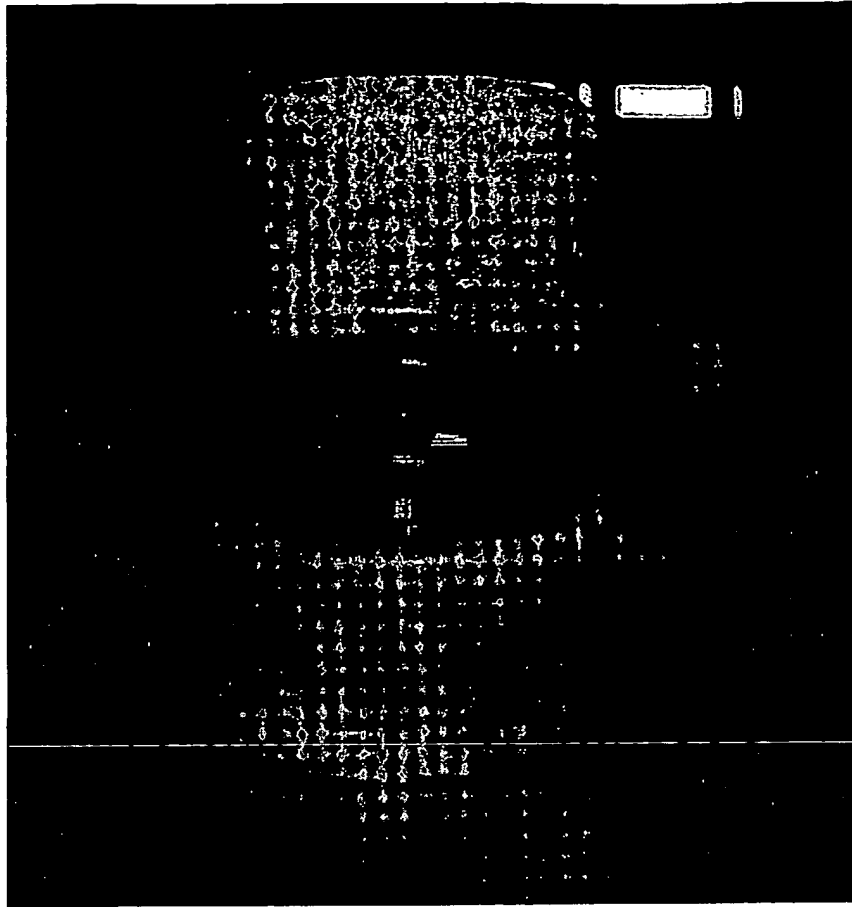


EXHIBIT D

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